

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NEA-09

ACDA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /101 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6405

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUDISDF AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 45

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 176

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC EI

SUBJ: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING JANUARY 23/24: GENERAL BRIEFING

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SUMMARY: IRISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR NOEL DORR BRIEFED US LATE

JAN 27 ON RESULTS OF EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE (POLITICAL DIRECTORS') MEETING OF JANUARY 23/24. THERE WERE, HE SAID, NO MAJOR INITIATIVES OR DEVELOPMENTS, BUT THERE WAS MINOR PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.

CSCE TOOK UP ONE FULL DAY OF TWO-DAY MEETING. BRIEFING ON CSCE WAS GIVEN SATURDAY AND HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE IS ALSO COVERED SEPTEL. OTHER TOPICS WERE: MIDDLE EAST SECURITY SITUATION, GENERAL CONCERN WITH UNITED NATIONS, CYPRUS, AND FOLLOW-UP TO PARIS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. PORTUGAL WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE BUT EMBASSY RAISED SUBJECT AGAIN IN DISCUSSION WITH DORR. END SUMMARY.

1. ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT: THIS WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FROM EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE (SEPTEL). DORR SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO ALL THAT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME FOR ANY INITIATIVE BY EC NINE ON SECURITY SITUATION. A WORKING GROUP WILL, HOWEVER, STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM AND WILL REPORT BACK TO POLITICAL DIRECTORS. DORR BELIEVES THAT EC NINE WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE A "HELPFUL INITIATIVE" IF CHANCE SHOULD ARISE.

2. UNITED NATIONS PROBLEM: DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT CAME LATE IN THE TWO-DAY MEETING AND WAS VERY BRIEF. THERE WAS GENERAL CONCERN WITH CURRENT STATE OF UN AND A WISH TO COORDINATE MORE FULLY AMONG THE NINE. THE DISCUSSION DID NOT FOCUS SPECIFICALLY ON STEAMROLLER TACTICS OF THE GROUP OF 77, BUT THIS IS THE PROBLEM THAT APPEARED TO BE IN POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MINDS. WE ASKED WHETHER POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATION BETWEEN US AND EC ON UN MATTERS. DORR REPLIED THAT THIS HAD NOT ARISEN, BUT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR US/EC COORDINATION AS SOON AS NINE HAD DONE SOME PRELIMINARY WORK. WE NOTED THAT US HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST (THROUGH NORMAL BILATERAL CHANNELS) IN WORKING WITH EUROPEANS ON UN DIFFICULTIES. COMMENT: FROM HERE, THIS LOOKS LIKE A PROMISING SUBJECT FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PROVIDE GUIDANCE.

3. CYPRUS: A WORKING GROUP WILL BE REVIEWING THE PROBLEM TO SEE IF THE NINE CAN, AT SOME STAGE, MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO CYPRUS SOLUTION. AS YET, THE NINE DO NOT HAVE EVEN TENTATIVE IDEAS, BUT MANY MEMBERS FEEL THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO MAKE HELPFUL USE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG EC INTEREST IN AND LINKS TO CYPRUS, GREECE AND TURKEY. DORR ADDED THAT WORKING-GROUP REVIEW WILL PROCEED AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO PARIS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING: THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS FELT OBLIGED TO REVIEW PARIS SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, BUT THEY FOUND NO PRESSING PROBLEMS WHEN THEY DID SO. AS EXAMPLE OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONSIDERED, DORR SAID THAT SUMMIT HAD DECIDED

TO ALLOW POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. POLITICAL DIRECTORS MUST WORK OUT MEANS OF COPING WITH ANY ENLARGEMENT OF PARLIAMENT'S FUNCTIONS.

5. PORTUGAL: TIME AT MEETING WAS SO TIGHT THAT DORR DID NOT RAISE PORTUGUESE ISSUE OR USE THE INFORMATION WE HAD EARLIER PROVIDED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD, HOWEVER, PASSED OUR POINTS TO THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH PLANNED TO PASS THEM ON. WE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 16786. DORR TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS BUT SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION THAT MORE WAS INVOLVED IN US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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